



Meet Ken Sandri - Preservation & Resource Manager at Grey Towers National Historic Site



Ken Sandri is the Preservation & Resource Manager at Grey Towers National Historic Site (GTNHS) with a position title of Exhibits Specialist. Grey Towers was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1963 by John F Kennedy to commemorate Gifford Pinchot's, and his family's, contribution to the national conservation movement and honor his role as the father of the US Forest Service. The NHL property was then designated by Congress in 2004 as the only National Historic Site outside the Department of Interior. Ken's primary responsibilities are to preserve and protect the historic and prehistoric resources at Grey Towers. Managing a very visible and highly utilized multi-use asset has specific challenges especially when the assets at GTNHS include these nationally significant and high-profile resources. He has managed nearly \$8 million in allocated funds for required improvements and reductions in deferred maintenance to the property. He believes his biggest challenge is managing and controlling the "effects" to the resources proposed to accommodate and service various programs, audiences and FS

administrative functions. These demands are quite different than the funding shortfalls or identifying appropriate use for a property Ken has experienced at other federal facilities. The NHL includes the 27,000 sq ft mansion house, 30 other contributing historic buildings and structures, a designed landscape that includes terraces, water features, roadways, dams, fields and acres of forested lands. One known prehistoric archeological site exists on site. The mansion-chateau is a 19th century design of a 15th century French manor house. Architect Richard Morris Hunt used the French manor-house architectural form and details from two chateaus the Marquis De Lafayette called home. It was built in 1886 and the construction and alterations were overseen by architect Henry Ficken. Other noted architects who worked on the outbuildings and landscape include: Chester Aldrich, Lawrence Bottomley, Harriet Kaupp, & Rose Nichols. Any proposals for modifying historic assets require proper planning and full consideration of the actions especially when considering the long term cumulative effect of changes to resources for activities and program needs. Managing this significant property requires a long-term vision and planning with the goal to reduce decisions that require a change to, or loss of the historic resources that define our and my mission.

Ken manages the Heritage staff at Grey Towers and is responsible for the management, maintenance of all the historic buildings, structures, features, objects and landscapes including the requirements of the natural resources on the national historic site. The staff includes a landscape curator, exhibits specialist, gardener and laborer. The heritage program also includes two separately managed programs: curation of the collections and public tour and programs. As the heritage program manager Ken's responsibilities includes:

- Cultural resources management (all phases) including buildings, structures, landscapes, objects, & natural resources
- Assuring compliance with NHPA, Sections 106 & 110 and other applicable regulations
- Consultation with the PA SHPO, ACHP & interested Native American tribes and other interested parties: local, regional and national.
- Historic preservation project planning, contract preparation and oversight, COR and construction inspector duties
- In-house implementation of preservation treatments on the historic buildings, structures, and the cultural landscape
- Preparation of contract documents including SOW, specifications using CSI format, condition assessments, treatment recommendations, etc
- Heritage program records management
- INFRA duties for both Heritage and Engineering modules
- Planning for future acquisitions of Associated Properties to the NHS
- Advising the Director on matters related to the Heritage Program
- Member of GT Leadership Team, Safety Committee, Green Team, Facility Management Team

Ken came to the Forest Service from the National Park Service where he was a historic preservation specialist. Graduating a 3 year preservation training program at the Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) in Frederick Maryland

- 6 years - Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- 3 years - Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 3 years - HPTC managing 8 preservation projects
- 4 years - HPTC as member of support staff implementing preservation projects on historic buildings, structures, and landscapes in over 40 national parks.

Ken's whole career has been dedicated to cultural resource management beginning with a degree in Anthropology and working as field archeologist with various contract firms identifying and mitigating threatened archeological sites. In 1987 he was a staff member on a research project at Colha, a "post-Classic" era Maya site in the central American country of Belize. Ken wrote a book in 1986 called A Matter of Style. This book is a guide to understanding the architectural styles of northeastern USA and is focused on the vernacular domestic structures in Shamokin PA. In addition to membership with professional organizations, Ken is involved with many non-profit organizations dedicated to the preservation of our cultural history. His favorite volunteer efforts are with the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania and the Timber Framers Guild. Ken has a wife Trudi (Bertini) and two adult children, Lee and Katy. Lee is an artist of oil paintings and plays various musical instruments. Katy is entering graduate school to be a large animal veterinarian.